To: Medicaid Managed Care Plans and MyCare Ohio Plans

From: Roxanne Richardson

   Office of Managed Care

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Subject: Telehealth and Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) providers

On March 20, 2020, the Ohio Department of Department Medicaid emergency filed Ohio Administrative code rule 5160-1-21, Telehealth during a state of emergency. The rule was implemented to expand access to medical and behavioral health services using telehealth and allowed for new and established patients to be provided services through telehealth without the initial face-to-face visit requirement to initiate services. The rule also includes the list of eligible practitioners able to render services using health.

The rule did not include language specific to applied behavioral analysis (ABA) providers or services due to it not currently being a state plan benefit. However, the rule did include the following language:

   (B)(1)(r) Other participating and non-participating providers delivering services in the managed care or fee-for-service (FFS) programs, as designated by the director of the Ohio department of medicaid (ODM).

   (B)(2)(g) Other participating and non-participating providers delivering services in the managed care or FFS programs, as designated by the director of ODM.

With these provisions in mind, the managed care plans must be allowing ABA to be available through telehealth under the current guidelines that were established in June 2018. If the provider is not enrolled with Medicaid, a single case agreement would be needed.

Per managed care provider agreement, appendix S, these services should not require prior authorization during the emergency period.

ODM has also published a Telehealth Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) on their COVID-19 Emergency Action webpage. It can be found here: https://www.medicaid.ohio.gov/COVID/ODM-Emergency-Telehealth

Any questions should be sent to the Managed Care Policy team ManagedCarePolicy@medicaid.ohio.gov